

## AMENDMENT

Please replace the claims with the following:

1           1. (Once Amended) A method for providing concurrency control for a  
2   policy-based management system that controls resources in a distributed  
3   computing system, the method comprising:  
4           receiving a request to perform an operation on a lockable resource from a  
5   controller in the distributed computing system, wherein the lockable resource  
6   presents one or more independent locks providing access to independent sub-units  
7   of the resource;  
8           wherein the controller sends the request in order to enforce a first policy  
9   for controlling resources in the distributed computing system;  
10          determining whether the controller holds a lock on the lockable resource;  
11          allowing the controller to execute the operation on the lockable resource if  
12   the controller holds the lock on the lockable resource;  
13          allowing the controller to acquire the lock if the controller does not hold  
14   the lock on the lockable resource; and  
15          allowing the controller to execute the operation on the lockable resource if  
16   the controller acquires the lock.

1           2. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the first policy is  
2   configured to command resources in the distributed computing system to perform  
3   actions so that the distributed computing system operates in accordance with a  
4   rule that is enforced by the first policy, wherein the rule governs behavior of  
5   resources within the distributed computing system.

1 3. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising throwing an  
2 exception if the controller does not hold the lock on the lockable resource and if  
3 the controller does not acquire the lock.

1 4. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the lock held on the  
2 lockable resource expires after a pre-specified lease period, unless the lease is  
3 renewed within the pre-specified lease period.

1 5. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the lockable resource  
2 includes a resource within the distributed computing system.

1 6. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the lockable resource  
2 includes a second policy for controlling resources in the distributed computing  
3 system.

1 7. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the controller includes a  
2 client in the distributed computing system.

1 8. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the controller includes the  
2 first policy for controlling resources in the distributed computing system.

1 9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the controller includes a  
2 higher-level policy for controlling resources in the distributed computing system,  
3 and wherein the lockable resource includes a lower-level policy for controlling  
4 resources in the distributed computing system.

A1  
Control

10. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein allowing the controller to acquire the lock includes allowing the controller to acquire the lock from a resource that allocates locks to controllers.

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

A2

Sub  
B2

1 12. (Once Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing  
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a  
3 method for providing concurrency control for a policy-based management system  
4 that controls resources in a distributed computing system, the method comprising:  
5 receiving a request to perform an operation on a lockable resource from a  
6 controller in the distributed computing system, wherein the lockable resource  
7 presents one or more independent locks providing access to independent sub-units  
8 of the resource;  
9 wherein the controller sends the request in order to enforce a first policy  
10 for controlling resources in the distributed computing system;  
11 determining whether the controller holds a lock on the lockable resource;  
12 allowing the controller to execute the operation on the lockable resource if  
13 the controller holds the lock on the lockable resource;  
14 allowing the controller to acquire the lock if the controller does not hold  
15 the lock on the lockable resource; and  
16 allowing the controller to execute the operation on the lockable resource if  
17 the controller acquires the lock.

A1  
Control

1 13. (Unchanged) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12,  
2 wherein the first policy is configured to command resources in the distributed  
3 computing system to perform actions so that the distributed computing system

4 operates in accordance with a rule that is enforced by the first policy, wherein the  
5 rule governs behavior of resources within the distributed computing system.

1 14. (Unchanged) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12,  
2 wherein the method further comprises throwing an exception if the controller does  
3 not hold the lock on the lockable resource and if the controller does not acquire  
4 the lock.

1 15. (Unchanged) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12,  
2 wherein locks held by the controller expire after a pre-specified lease period,  
3 unless the lease is renewed within the pre-specified lease period.

1 16. (Once Amended) An apparatus that provides concurrency control  
2 within a policy-based management system that controls resources in a distributed  
3 computing system, the apparatus comprising:  
4 a receiving mechanism that receives a request to perform an operation on a  
5 lockable resource from a controller in the distributed computing system, wherein  
6 the lockable resource presents one or more independent locks providing access to  
7 independent sub-units of the resource;  
8 wherein the controller sends the request in order to enforce a first policy  
9 for controlling resources in the distributed computing system;  
10 a determining mechanism that determines whether the controller holds a  
11 lock on the lockable resource;  
12 an execution mechanism that is configured to,  
13 allow the controller to acquire the lock if the controller  
14 does not hold the lock on the lockable resource, and to  
15 allow the controller to execute the operation on the lockable  
16 resource if the controller holds the lock on the lockable resource.

1 17. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first policy is  
2 configured to command resources in the distributed computing system to perform  
3 actions so that the distributed computing system operates in accordance with a  
4 rule that is enforced by the first policy, wherein the rule governs behavior of  
5 resources within the distributed computing system.

1 18. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the execution  
2 mechanism is configured to throw an exception if the controller does not hold the  
3 lock on the lockable resource and if the controller does not acquire the lock.

1 19. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the lock on the  
2 lockable resource expires after a pre-specified lease period, unless the lease is  
3 renewed within the pre-specified lease period.

1 20. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the lockable resource  
2 includes a resource within the distributed computing system.

1 21. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the lockable resource  
2 includes a second policy for controlling resources in the distributed computing  
3 system.

1 22. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the controller  
2 includes a client in the distributed computing system.

1 23. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the controller  
2 includes the first policy for controlling resources in the distributed computing  
3 system.

24. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the controller  
includes a higher-level policy for controlling resources in the distributed  
computing system, and wherein the lockable resource includes a lower-level  
policy for controlling resources in the distributed computing system.

25. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the execution  
mechanism is configured to allow the controller to acquire the lock from a  
resource that allocates locks to controllers.

**Please cancel claim 26 without prejudice.**